



State Senator

June 2005

# VALDE GARCIA

Serving the 22<sup>nd</sup> District

Shiawassee-Livingston-Southern Ingham counties

## A Glimpse of Current Legislation & Critical Issues Focus: Military Affairs

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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### 15 Armories saved

Budget shifts between the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) have saved 15 of Michigan's armories from closing.

The armories were spared thanks to a \$650,000 allocation transfer between the departments. The dollars will help the facilities maintain basic daily operations and regular services to their communities. Sen. Garcia chairs the Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee and was glad he and his colleague Sen. Cameron Brown (Chair of the State Police and Military Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee) were able to find the resources to maintain these valuable sites.

Although 15 sites were saved, six had to be closed: Charlotte, Lansing Maintenance, Manistique, Menominee, Saginaw and the Three Rivers armories.

In total, the Department of Military and Veteran's affairs is expected to receive nearly \$118 million for FY 2005-06, however the legislation that determines their allocation amount (Senate Bill 277) has yet to be approved by the both chambers of the legislature. Final action on SB 277 is expected sometime this summer.

### Military Family Relief Fund a success!

Last year, Sen. Garcia successfully launched a new state-wide program designed to assist families of deployed military personnel. Public Acts 363 and 364 of 2004 created the Military Family Relief Fund which would allow Michigan's taxpayers to donate a \$1 or more when they complete their state income tax forms. Donations will be used to help military families facing financial hardship. To date, the fund has collected nearly \$700,000.

Military families who wish to learn more about the Fund may contact Joel Wortley at (517) 484-5654. If you would like to make a contribution to the fund before receiving your 2005 tax forms, you may send a check payable to the Military Family Relief Fund, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, P.O. Box 30261, Lansing, MI 48909-7761.

### Veterans Career Fair & Business Expo July 14

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the VFW  
National Home for Children

3573 S. Waverly Road,  
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Sponsored by the  
Department of Labor and  
Economic Growth, Veterans  
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